

DESERT AIRMAN

Vol. 60, No. 46

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Friday, Nov. 17, 2000

Around D-M

Carnival today

The youth center's annual fall carnival is today from 4 to 8 p.m. Admission is free, but there is a small fee for certain activities. Call 8-8844 for more details.

Open House

The skill center's open house is today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extensive renovations were made to the center. Patrons can stop by and see the new graphics shop as well as other additions. Refreshments will be served. The skills center is located in Building 4531, next to Bama Park. For more details call 8-4385.

Spouses' Call

Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, 12th Air Force commander, will host the first commander's call for spouses, Monday at 6 p.m. in Building 12 (Headquarters 12th Air Force) in the battlestaff conference room, Room 131. Professional caregivers will be on hand to provide free child care. Refreshments will also be available. Questions about the 12th Air Force mission, operations tempo, etc. will be addressed. Those interested in attending, especially those who will need child care, can call Staff Sgt. Hope Norton at 8-1760.

Days since
last D-M DUI:

16



Need a ride? Call Airmen
Against Drunk Driving
at 850-2233.

(Current as of Thursday)



Senior Airman Amie Gannon

Staff Sgt. Gregory Jones, 355th Security Forces Squadron, trains with his partner, Pabror, a German Shepherd.

K-9s, cops are 'Big Dogs' at world-wide competition

By Angie Erickson
Public affairs

Military working dog teams from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base competed against 58 other teams representing 27 agencies from around the world during the 12th Annual Tucson-Area Police K-9 Trials held at Hi Corbett Field Nov. 10 through 12.

"This is a competition that just keeps on getting bigger and better every year, said Tech. Sgt. Michael Odell, kennel master for the 355th

Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog section. "And the competition gets more fierce."

While they placed in seven events last year, this year they proved to be just as good bringing home another seven awards, continuing to be among the best worldwide. As an agency, the 355th Military Working Dog Section placed fifth overall in Agency Detection.

However, their individual talents were also recognized as Senior Airman Jason Turner brought home a

trophy for third place in explosive detection, a fourth-place trophy in area search, and a seventh-place trophy in tactical obedience. Staff Sgt. Christine Cleary won a fifth-place trophy in area search and a sixth-place trophy in the obstacle course.

Staff Sgt. Donald McKay won the Chief's award trophy. The Chief's award is presented annually to the handler who best displays enthusiasm, commitment, professionalism and esprit de corps.

See K-9 Page 4

Commander's Corner



Col. Bobby Wilkes
355th Wing Commander

Commander's Salute

This week, I salute **Maj. Richard Harrington, 355th Operational Support Squadron** and this year's **Combined Federal Campaign** project officer, as well as his sharp team of CFC representatives. The campaign goals were well exceeded as the best ever at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Outstanding!

Supporting each other and working together to provide the best programs and services is a common goal we all share as members of Team D-M.

Ideas, suggestions, comments and kudos are an important ingredient for continuous improvement.

The fastest way to pass along comment or to get an answer to your concern is to contact the agency chief or functional manager listed here.

Still no solution? The Commander's Corner phone line is available 24 hours a day, at **228-4747**, or you can send an e-mail to us at:
355thWing.CommandersCorner@dm.af.mil.

If you leave your name, phone number and a message, you'll receive a prompt reply, either in writing or by telephone. We will honor your confidentiality, but sometimes we need to contact callers to gather additional information. If your concern is of general interest to the base populace, the response may be published in the *Desert Airman*. Anonymous calls may not be published in the newspaper, we recommend you leave a contact phone number if you'd like us to provide an answer.

A & A Days gates

Comment: It was advertised in the news that the Craycroft and Swan Road gates would be the ones to use during the air show. We wanted to go to the commissary and had to go through the Wilmot Road gate. Why wasn't there better publicity about it.

Response: Publication of the use of the Swan and Craycroft Road gates was intended for the large anticipated crowds of the general public coming to the air show.

Our publicity specifically stated that DOD cardholders, vendors, VIPs and news media traffic would have to use the Wilmot Road Gate. Our intent was to ensure a safe traffic flow to expedite the influx and return of our 625,000 guests, which was accomplished without incident.

B-47 part of D-M history

Concern: I read the history of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in the supplement for the Aerospace & Arizona Days 2000 air show. There was no mention of a B-47 and it was here for more than 10 years. I thought this history should be updated.

Response: Thank you for using the Commander's Corner, and I commend your respect for history. The history segment that was printed in the A & A Days supplement was a condensed version of our entire wing's history, designed to give people a snapshot of the wing. I can reassure you that the contributions of the B-47 have not been forgotten, and can be found on D-M's homepage under 'History' at www.dm.af.mil. You can also contact the 355th Wing History Office at 8-6080 for written material and photographs of D-M's great history. Thanks for your interest.

ID gym patrons

Concern: I realize no system is full proof, but I do feel a random ID check is overdue to verify patrons are "legally" suppose to be in the gym. How do some get in without a sponsor?

Response: Use of the Haeffner Fitness and Sports Center is an entitlement reserved for active-duty military and their dependents, retired military and their dependents, active and retired DOD civilians (both Appropriated and Nonappropriated Fund employees) and their dependents and contractors. Guests of authorized patrons are also afforded the opportunity to use the facility if accompanied by their sponsor. To ensure we guard this entitlement more closely, we will be conducting more frequent ID checks. Thank you for bringing this concern to our attention.

Your Final Answer?

Did you have a New Year's resolution, and did you keep it?



Staff Sgt. Chris Olson
162nd Fighter Wing

"I don't believe in New Year's resolutions because I think that you shouldn't put off making a change. If you're going to quit smoking or drinking, you need to do it today, not wait for the New Year."



Bonnie Lintzenich
Wife of Retired Senior Master Sgt. Richard Lintzenich,
U.S. Army Special Forces

"We made the decision to move to Tucson from Illinois, and we are in the process of doing that right now. We decided to make the move and enjoy our retirement."



Lt. Col. Gregg Montijo
355th Operations Group

"I decided to spend more time with my family. I had to make some career decisions that allowed this resolution to become a reality. My children can really tell a difference."



Staff Sgt. Rob Jakubicki
162nd Fighter Wing

"Do more travelling. I went to the Grand Canyon and to Monument Valley. I also did a lot more fishing and that requires a lot of travelling, living in Arizona."



First Lt. Frank Scolaro and son, Frank Scolaro Jr.
358th Fighter Squadron

"No, because I never keep them."



First Lt. Jason Self
355th Civil Engineer Squadron

"I wanted to visit the Grand Canyon, and I did a couple of weeks ago. We went and hiked from rim to rim — 43.6 miles in 23 hours. It was one of the best New Year's resolutions yet!"

Airmen receive 'swift' nonjudicial punishment

The following individuals received punishment for unlawful conduct recently.

◆ A senior airman received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman first class and 30 days extra duty for wrongful use of the government travel card and failure to pay a just debt, violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice Articles 92 and 134.

◆ An airman first class received a reduction to the rank of airman for underage drinking and driving while intoxicated, violations of the UCMJ Articles 92 and 111.

◆ A senior airman received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman and 15 days extra duty for dereliction of duty, a violation of the UCMJ Article 92.

◆ An airman received a reduction to the rank of airman basic for absent without leave, a violation of the UCMJ Article 86.

◆ An airman first class received a suspended reduction to airman basic for underage drinking, a violation of the UCMJ Article 92.

◆ A senior airman received a reduction to the rank of airman basic for wrongful use of

marijuana, a violation of the UCMJ Article 112a.

◆ An airman first class received a reduction to the rank of airman and 30 days extra duty for wrongful use of the government travel card and failure to obey an order, violations of the UCMJ Article 92.

◆ An airman first class received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman and 20 days extra duty for failure to go, a violation of the UCMJ Article 86.

◆ An airman received a reduction to the rank of airman basic for assault and battery, a violation of the UCMJ Article 128.

◆ An airman received a reduction to the rank of airman basic for wrongfully using and possessing a false military identification card, violations of the UCMJ Article 134.

◆ An airman first class received a reduction to the rank of airman and a suspended restriction to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base for 30 days for failure to go and wrongful use of marijuana, violations of the UCMJ Articles 86 and 112a.

◆ An airman first class received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, restriction to base for 30 days, and 30 days extra duty for der-

eliction of duty, a violation of the UCMJ Article 92.

◆ An airman first class received a forfeiture of \$50 pay per month for two months and a reprimand, for wrongfully using a false military identification card, a violation of the UCMJ Article 134.

◆ An airman first class received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, restriction to base for 21 days, and 30 days extra duty for wrongfully making false military identification cards, a violation of the UCMJ Article 134.

◆ An airman first class received a suspended forfeiture of \$50 pay per month for two months and 15 days extra duty for loaning a military identification card to others to make false military identification cards, a violation of the UCMJ Article 134.

◆ An airman first class received a suspended reduction to the rank of airman, restriction to base, for 30 days, and 45 days extra duty for wrongfully making false military identification cards, a violation of the UCMJ Article 134.

Airmen score high on tests

The following airmen scored 90 percent or higher on their career development course exams in the month of October:

◆ Airman 1st Class Kevin Hunter, 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron;

◆ Airman 1st Class Jared Lloyd-Jones, 355th EMS;

◆ Staff Sgt. Sean O'Neil, 355th Medical Group;

◆ Senior Airman Cally Taylor, 355th MDG;

◆ Staff Sgt. James Douglas, 355th Wing;

◆ Airman 1st Class Samuel Myles, 358th Fighter Squadron;

◆ Airman 1st Class Christia Ouellet, 41st Electronic Combat Squadron;

◆ Staff Sgt. David Guy, 42nd Airborne Command and Control Squadron;

◆ Staff Sgt. Randy Teer, 42nd ACCS;

◆ Staff Sgt. Brent Schafer, 12th Air Force;

◆ Airman 1st Class Arwin Calix, 12th Air Force; and

◆ Airman Georgina Vion, 12th Air Force.

Congratulations!

'Seniors' become 'chiefs'

The Air Force released its list of the newest chief master sergeant selectees at the first duty hour Wednesday.

The Air Force has tentatively selected 417 of 2,935 eligible senior master sergeants for promotion to chief master sergeant. This represents a selection rate of 14.2 percent, a slight decrease from last year's promotion rate of 17.58 percent.

"Multiple factors drive the chief master sergeant promotion percentage, including projected overall vacancies for the next year, and limitations on the number of chiefs who can serve on active duty by law," said Air Force Personnel Center officials.

"The more vacancies that exist, the greater the number that can be promoted," center officials added. "The fewer vacancies, the fewer we can promote."

Because the eligible numbers are small to begin with, even a modest year-to-year increase or decrease in either the eligible population or the number of vacancies can cause the overall percentage to fluctuate upward or downward to a greater degree than it does among large grade populations.

The cycle 00E9 Chief Master Sergeant Evaluation Board convened at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 23 through Nov. 3 to evaluate individual records of senior master sergeants eligible for promotion.

This is the first promotion release where the Air Force is awarding two Weighted Airman Promotion System points to any eligible senior master sergeant who has been certified as having successfully completed three years as an Air Force recruiter as of the July 31 promotion eligibility cutoff date. This policy went into effect for anyone who was a recruiter June 21.

The average selectee score for this cycle was 654.73 points based on the following:

- 27.16 points, Time-in-Grade;
- 22.24 points, Time-in-Service;
- 135.00 points, Enlisted Performance Reports;
- 23.13 points, Decorations;
- 66.33 points, U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination;
- 380.86 points, Board Score.

The average selectee has 3.45 years time in grade and 21.34 years time in service. Those selected will be promoted to chief master sergeant throughout the 2001 calendar year.

The complete list of the new chief master sergeants will be posted to the AFPC home page by close of business, CST, today, at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

New D-M chiefs

The following individuals were promoted to chief master sergeants:

- ◆ Chester Richardson, 355th Component Repair Squadron;
- ◆ Gerald Thomas, 355th CRS;
- ◆ Garet Johnson, 355th Security Forces Squadron;
- ◆ Franklin Brown, 355th Supply Squadron;
- ◆ Thomas Buchanan, 355th SUPS;
- ◆ Ernest Shishido, 355th Transportation Squadron;
- ◆ Kenneth Chandler, 12th Air Force;
- ◆ Irving Rodriguez, 12th Air Force; and
- ◆ Phillip Roseberry, 12th Air Force.

K-9

Continued from Page 1

In team competitions, communication is vital to the success of the task at hand. Communication is necessary during the preparation of the competition, of course during the competition, and after in assessing the results. How then does a working dog team communicate their competition?

"It's not easy," said Staff Sgt. Gregory Jones, 355th SFS Military Working Dog trainer. "It's one thing to talk to another handler, but when it comes to the dogs, you communicate through repetition, and hope that during the competition the dog does not get distracted."

Odell credits Jones for their training program. "We have been consistent in our placement over the years. This is due to our training programs and our sharp handlers."

The dogs and their handlers competed in a variety of events allowing the general public to see the importance of a working dog team. The events included a building search, handler protection, tactical obedience, area search, agility and narcotics and explosive detection.

"This year was the closest yet on points. First through eighth in most events only had a two point difference, meaning that the difference between each place was a fraction of a point," said Odell. The competition says a lot about the winners since the Department of Defense teams won more than half of the awards, and most of those went to

the Army team based in Germany.

Odell and Jones agree that the military has an outstanding track record for having some of the finest trained dogs in the world. "We have the best K-9 facility in the Air Force," said Odell, boasting about the two obstacle courses and the area search facility. "That is why local police, state and federal agencies come out and train with us."

Although it started out as a friendly competition among D-M and the Border Patrol 12 years ago, D-M now co-hosts the K-9 Trials with the Tucson Police Department, the Pima County Sheriff's Department and the Tohono O' Odham Police Department.

Odell has to rely on volunteers to help orchestrate the enormous event. He credits the following volunteers for their support in seeing the project through: Tech. Sgt.

Ronald Hoover, Staff Sgt. Teresa Berber, Airman First Class Kevin Waddle and Capt. Allan Fiel and his wife, Cathleen.

Competition, of course, was the driving force behind the event. However, proceeds generated through registrations, were donated to the Casa De Los Ninos and the Ronald McDonald House.



Staff Sgt. Christine Cleary, 355th SFS, and her partner Graff, a German Shepherd, train on the working dog obstacle course.



Staff Sgt. Donald McKay, 355th Security Forces Squadron, trains with his partner Donja, a Belgian Malinois.

Dog facts

The 355th Security Forces Squadron military working dog section is made up of one Belgian Malinois and three German Shepherd Dogs.

German Shepherd size:

-males stand 24 to 26 inches and weigh 80 to 95 pounds

-females stand 22 to 24 inches and weigh 70 to 80 pounds

German Shepherd traits:

-Very intelligent, loyal and protective

-Calm and steady temperament*

-High energy level

Ideal for tracking and search and rescue work, herding.

Belgian Malinois size:

-males stand 24-26 inches and weigh 60 to 80 pounds

-females stand 22-24 inches and weigh 40 to 60 pounds

Belgian Malinois traits:

-Very intelligent, loyal and protective

-Calm and steady temperament*

-High energy level

Ideal for tracking and search and rescue work, herding.

(* depending on training)

Do they sound like twins?

They do have differences.

The Malinois is a smaller dog with a lighter bone structure. It stands square, and walks well up on its toes. The German Shepherd Dog has a long, sloping back and walks flatter on its feet. The Malinois is fawn colored with black overlay. The GSD is usually tan with a black saddle. The Malinois is considered to be more alert and faster to respond than the GSD, but also more sensitive, which can make it more difficult to train.

(Information from the American Belgian Malinois Club (www.breedclub.org) and the German Shepherd Ring

(www.dbirtwis.hispeed.com)

Photos by Senior Airman Amie Gannon

Beneficiaries can help avoid medical bill problems

By Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen Rhem
American Forces Press Service

There are several steps TRICARE beneficiaries can take to avoid getting in hot water over unpaid medical bills, military health care officials said.

TRICARE officials have learned several lessons since implementing the Debt Collection Assistance Officer program, July 26. The program is designed to help beneficiaries deal with unpaid medical bills that have been sent to a collection agent or a credit bureau.

The beneficiary should first make sure information on the TRICARE explanation-of-benefits notification is correct. "It's easy for mistakes to occur when people are coding in numbers and letters," said Marcia Bonifas, TRICARE Management Activity's director of customer service and

beneficiary education. "If a social security number or procedure code is one number off, it can result in a claim denial."

"This can be resolved much more quickly if the beneficiary notices the problem and immediately calls the claims processor," she said.

Beneficiaries should also make better use of beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators at each military medical treatment facility. "When beneficiaries receive a dunning notice, a notice that the bill has not yet gone to a collection agency but it will if not paid within 30 days, the coordinators will take that on and work with the claims processor to get it paid," Bonifas said.

This advice also applies to any bill beneficiaries don't understand. "If you get a bill and you're not sure what it is, get it in to your TRICARE Service Center and get them engaged early," said Col. Frank Cumberland, the agency's director of

communications. "Individuals should identify problems as early as they sense them. We want to solve problems as early in the process as possible."

Since the program began, Bonifas noted, beneficiaries have made good use of the Internet to get correct information about the debt collection program. "They see it on the front page (of the TRICARE home page) and know exactly where they need to go if they get some sort of notification or have a question," she said.

About 300 claims have been brought to the debt collection assistance officers, and officials say half of them have been resolved already. "Our goal is to get each claim settled within 30 days of our finding out about it," Bonifas said.

For more information, visit the TRICARE Management Activity Debt Collection Assistance Web page at www.tricare.osd.mil/dcao/

AAFES removes drugs containing PPA from shelves

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has removed all drugs containing phenylpropanolamine from its shelves after a Food and Drug Administration warning to consumers to stop using over-the-counter cough and cold medications and appetite

suppressant (diet pills) containing PPA.

According to the FDA, PPA could cause hemorrhagic strokes, or bleeding in the brain, in young women.

Among the products affected are cough-cold remedies such as Alka-Seltzer Plus, Dimetapp and Triaminic, along with the diet pills Dexatrim and Acutrim. Customers with cough and cold symptoms can purchase other over-the-counter drugs such as Sudafed, Benadryl, Drixoral and AAFES-brand products containing a safe alternative called pseudoephedrine, said exchange service officials.

The AAFES' sales directorate has compiled a complete listing of drugs containing PPA to assist its manag-

ers with the removal process. AAFES customers will be offered the opportunity to return any unused product for a full refund.

"It's important to remember that this notice by the FDA is only a warning and not a recall or formal ban," said Mike Beverly, AAFES chief operating officer. "However, we feel that this warning is of such significance that we're taking this immediate action."

Customers should review ingredient labels to see if phenylpropanolamine is listed.

If you have any questions regarding this action, the FDA has established a direct toll-free line at 1-888-463-6332, or consult your health care provider. (Courtesy Air Force Print News)

Among the products affected are cough-cold and diet pills such as:

- ◆ Alka-Seltzer Plus,
- ◆ Dimetapp,
- ◆ Triaminic,
- ◆ Dexatrim and
- ◆ Acutrim.

For more information call 1-888-463-6332, or consult your health care provider.

Advertising

Air Force encourages veterans to resume careers

The Air Force is on track with respect to its goal of attracting veterans interested in returning to active duty. The Air Force's fiscal 2001 goal for its prior service program is 600.

To date, 73 veterans have signed enlistment contracts; 59 are prior Air Force, seven Army, four Navy, and three Marines, according to Air Force Recruiting Service officials.

The prior-service program that formerly complemented typical nonprior service recruiting now allows the Air Force to immediately fill noncommissioned officer shortages in certain specialties by welcoming back individuals with previous military experience.

"The Air Force recognizes there is a pool of highly-skilled veterans who've served proudly and now miss the opportunities of military service," said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, Air Force

Recruiting Service commander.

"They may have spent four or more years with one of our sister services and decided to leave for the civilian work force," Deal said. "Now they miss the teamwork, discipline, and opportunities of the military and want to serve again on active duty. Instead of donning Army green or Marine khakis, they want to build on those skills with a career in the Air Force. This program allows them to do that."

In previous years, recruiters were given credit for enlisting people with no previous military experience, but, prior-service military members did not count toward their annual goal — although nearly 900 veterans returned during fiscal 2000. This fiscal year's goal of 34,600 new recruits now includes prior-service members.

The basic criteria for enlisted members to re-

enter the active force are:

- ◆ Be re-enlistment eligible at time of separation;
- ◆ Have served no more than 12 years of active service;
- ◆ Have not been separated more than four years when they re-enter active duty; and
- ◆ Be in the grade of E-4 through E-6.

Reserve and Guard members are also eligible to participate, with commander approval.

Veterans of all services may resume a career in America's Air Force without an administrative waiting period.

For more information about joining the Air Force, people can contact their local Air Force recruiter or call the Air Force Opportunities Center at 1-800-423-USAF. *(Courtesy Air Force Print News)*

Advertising

DOD uses new incentives to recruit civilians

By **Gerry Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

An expanded college loan repayment program and a modified retirement savings system are two new recruiting tools at the Defense Department's disposal because of legislation recently signed by President Clinton, said DOD's senior civilian personnel official.

Diane Disney, deputy assistant secretary of defense for civilian personnel policy, said the two popular recruitment tools are widely used in the private sector. She said they will help DOD attract "the best and the brightest" civilian employees.

"This is an extremely tight labor market," Disney said. "We now have 77 percent fewer people in their 20s (in DOD) than we did a decade ago, and many people are coming up on retirement eligibility. We need to take definite steps to improve our recruitment of college graduates."

DOD's civilian work force requirements are rapidly changing due to information technology advances, Disney said. Older "baby-boomer" employees — most at the mid- to senior-grade level, she noted — are expected to start retiring this year.

People with experience in information technology and other technical fields are needed to replace them, Disney said, even while the

healthy economy makes it hard to compete with private-sector employers for young, or older, college-educated employees.

The enhanced college loan repayment program would pay up to \$6,000 per calendar year, up to a total of \$40,000, Disney said. It will take effect in mid-2001 and its cost will be borne by the agencies involved.

"Previous authority to pay off student loans was limited to professional, administrative and technical positions only. The new legislation removes those limitations so that any occupation might be eligible," she said. The program, however, is not retroactive.

Disney said the federal civilian college loan repayment program shouldn't dissuade people from joining the military, which offers up to \$65,000 for college tuition.

"Right now, if somebody wants to come work for the Department of Defense, but doesn't necessarily want to be in uniform, there really isn't an obvious enticement. This provides an enticement to the civil service within DOD, the kind the military has found effective," she said.

Recently approved legislation affecting the government's 401k-like Thrift Savings Plan gives newly hired federal employees the opportunity to start saving immediately, Disney said. Previously people couldn't invest in the plan until the second TSP open season after they began working for the federal government.

The enhanced TSP program is "a really great incentive, particularly for bringing in mid-level and senior people," she said. The older people become the more concerned they are about their retirement system.

Currently, about 75 percent of eligible DOD civilians participate in at least one of the three TSP investment funds: government securities, corporate bonds and stocks, she said. Money put into TSP comes from pre-tax dollars and reduces taxable income; the investments and earnings aren't taxed until they are withdrawn.

"If we have a retirement system that denies people the opportunity to participate in retirement savings for maybe as long as a year, we're not going to look like a very attractive employer," Disney said. "This issue arises when we try to recruit faculty members for our institutions, or when we try to bring in scientists and engineers for three to four years. The old system was a real disincentive because retirement earnings are so important."

Disney said new employees would also be allowed to contribute "rollover" distributions from previous retirement plans.

"That helps to simplify a person's life," she said. A person who joins the government and who already has a 401k account with a past employer might not want to handle two, and now doesn't have to. "You can now roll those two into one," Disney said.

The newly available recruiting tools should make federal employment much more appealing than it was before, she said.

Advertising

I am an American

By Lt. Col. Theresa Carter
355th Civil Engineer Squadron
commander

It's fall, and to many Americans, that means football season.

As I watched my alma mater, the Purdue Boilermakers, continue their trek to the Rose Bowl this past weekend, I was reminded of a great tradition that's part of every Purdue home football game.

During the pre-game ceremonies, after the All American Band has formed its signature "Block P" on the field, a stillness comes over the crowd as they anticipate the sound of the public address announcer reciting the following verse:

*I am an American.
That's the way most of us put it,
Just matter of factly.
They are plain words those four;
You could write them on your thumbnail
Or you could sweep them clear across this bright autumn sky.
But remember, too
That they are more than words.*

*They are a way of life.
So whenever you speak them,
Speak them firmly;
Speak them proudly;
Speak them gratefully.
I am an American!*

The crowd shouts the last line in unison and breaks out into a raucous cheer before settling down once again to sing along as the band plays the national anthem.

Every time I hear those words it sends chills down my spine, as it seems to capture the essence of what we're about as a nation.

"They are more than words, they are a way of life." The verse also hangs on a wall in my office as a constant reminder to be thankful for the liberties and freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Fall is also a time when we honor those who have served in our military and give thanks for the many blessings we have received as individuals, as a family, and as a nation.

For more than 200 years, men and women have dedicated themselves and many have

See American on Page 11



Senior Airman Amy McBeth

Lt. Col. Theresa Carter (right) gets paving pointers from Ron Frayer. Frayer is an equipment operator for the 355th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Welcome to Davis-Monthan

Lt. Gen Doc Foglesong, Deputy Chief of Staff,
Air and Space Operations
Col. William Coutts, 388th Operations Group
Commander
**Gila Bomb Competition Distinguished
Visitors**

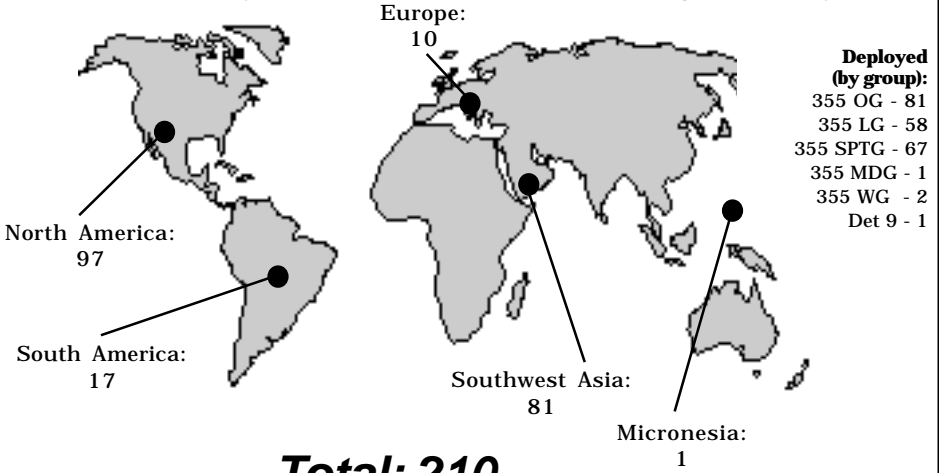
355th Wing Flying Goals

Hours	41st	42nd	43rd	Sorties	354th	357th	358th
	ECS	ACCS	ECS		FS	FS	FS
Goal	260	325	233		517	340	365
Flown	111	150	151		264	177	180
Delta	3	-12	45		15	15	-7
FY 2001	18	-4	32		-7	-17	-41

Current as of Wednesday

Where are 355th Wing members serving?

This time last year, **113** members of the 355th Wing were deployed.



Total: 210

Other locations -- 4
Current as of Monday

Source:
355th Mission Support Squadron
Personnel Readiness Unit



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Lead use can be traced back many centuries. Humans have been producing lead for approximately 4,000 years, and the favorable physical and chemical properties of the lead account for its extensive use. Lead compounds were used as pigments in paint, varnishes and primers and were popular due to the durability, pigmentation and resistance to mildew. Many houses built before 1978 are believed to contain some form of these lead-based paints.

The health hazards weren't realized until 1713 when it was discovered that potters working with lead glaze became ill. Lead is a naturally occurring element that is harmful to people when taken into the body through ingestion or inhalation. Lead accumulates within various organs of the body and, since the body can't process lead, the excess amounts are stored for extended periods in the bones. It can cause serious and long-term physical and neurological problems. Even though there may be no symptoms, or the symptoms are similar to other illnesses, such as the flu, the serious health effects in adults may lead to:

- High Blood Pressure;
- Kidney Problems; and
- Problems conceiving and having children.

Children are most vulnerable to exposure of lead-based paint because their bodies and nervous systems are still developing rapidly. They also absorb lead faster than adult bodies.

Are you at risk for lead-based paint exposure?

The effects of lead poisoning are most severe for children younger than 6 and in the womb.

"Childhood lead poisoning is the most common environmental disease of young children and is entirely preventable." (*Centers for Disease Control, 1991*)

According to the Housing and Urban Development Office of Lead Hazard Control, "even low levels of lead can have a great impact on a child's developing brain and nervous system, causing reductions in IQ and attention span, reading and learning disabilities, hyperactivity and behavioral problems." This exposure can happen while in the womb due to lead's ability to be stored in bones for a long period of time. The pregnant mother may have been exposed to lead at some other point in her life, and now risks the exposure to her unborn child. Changes that occur in a woman's body during pregnancy can result in the stored lead being released into her blood exposing the fetus. This lead poisoning can result in miscarriage, premature births and low birth weight.

Lead enters the body through a number of different pathways. The

primary way is through ingestion or inhalation of lead-contaminated dust. This usually occurs when renovation of a building/room is conducted. Keep in mind that only paint produced before 1978 contains lead—the Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the use of lead-based paint in 1978. Paint in good condition and not peeling is considered safe ... only when the paint is disturbed by sanding or scraping does it become a hazard. The dust created from the removal becomes airborne and can be inhaled. Dust can also be created by constant friction of opening a window or a door that rubs on the frame which has been painted with a type of lead-based paint.

Children who crawl around on the floor and get the dust on their hands can expose themselves the minute they put their hands in their mouths. Poisoning can also occur when children eat the paint chips, which are said to be sweet to taste. They can also be exposed when they play outside and engage in normal hand-to-mouth activity around dirt that has been mixed with the household dust.

Other ways lead can enter the body are through water from lead pipes or

in a watering can. Air is also a carrier through leaded gasoline fumes. Restrictions on the use of lead in gasoline and more stringent clean air requirements have reduced airborne lead particles.

Some foods used to be packed in cans that had lead in them and food could also have lead in it from placing it on pottery that contained lead glazing. Although leaded cans and leaded pottery have been banned, the risk still exists from antique pottery or some imported items.

Here at Davis-Monthan AFB, the 355th Civil Engineer Squadron has removed the majority of lead-based paint from our family housing area and the child development center.

Any base contract requiring paint is stringently looked at by the environmental quality flight to ensure no lead-based paint is used.

The bioenvironmental flight is contacted to do any testing that might be required before a building is renovated.

If lead-based paint is detected, the proper worker safety measures must be put into place in order to remove the paint in a safe, EPA-governed manner.

The Department of Defense uses strict guidelines where lead-based paint is involved, which are sometimes more stringent than what the EPA requires.

If you have any questions regarding lead-based paint issues, call Annette Flannery at 8-4885.

American

Continued from Page 10

given their lives to protect the freedom that we all enjoy.

From the first shot fired at Lexington and Concord, to the beaches of Normandy and the sands of the Persian Gulf, our military members have risen to and met every challenge.

Significant contribution

Whether standing guard on the front lines, flying a bomber through thick flak over the skies of Germany, or working at bases throughout the world during times of peace, each and every individual who has worn our nation's uniform as a soldier, sailor, airman or marine has made a lasting and significant contribution to our country.

Without their sacrifice, our American way of life might be radically different from that which we enjoy today.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving

ing next week, take time to pause and reflect on the many things for which we can be thankful as Americans.

Take time to thank your family for their support in your military career - for taking each PCS move in stride; for understanding the times when duty calls and takes you away from home for weeks, months, or a one-year remote; and for being your biggest cheerleader, encouraging you to continue pursuing your goals.

Take time also to remember the members of the USS Cole who were killed and injured, their families and the members of the crew forever changed by this tragedy.

To those who are currently serving and to those who have served in our military, I thank you for your commitment, dedication and sacrifice.

Thanks to you, I can firmly, proudly and gratefully say, "I am an American!"

U.S. military protects freedom

The Nov. 7 letter (in the *Arizona Daily Star*) titled, "Air show is about war," seemed to miss the real point behind promoting the air show held at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The air show is about more than war. It's about defense - of those human rights the letter writer mentioned, of our country and our citizens and of free people everywhere who need our help. The writer made it sound like the United States builds weapons and then trains its military to just pop into countries for the sole purpose of engaging in war. The freedoms we often take for granted are protected by the fine men and women of our armed services who spend their lives protecting this country, as well as other countries that need help protecting their own citizens and borders. The writer might "doubt any parent would want their children to hear what was

really involved in those 120 combat missions over Iraq that one of the flight commanders flew," nor would we "bring [our] children out to watch real planes being shot out of the sky." Of course we wouldn't bring our children knowingly into harm's way. We would be in bomb shelters hoping we wouldn't be the target. But I feel certain most parents would want their kids to know the details of those missions in order to have them fully realize that war is devastating and ugly, that lives are lost, and that we have the best and most well-trained armed forces anywhere who will protect and defend whenever and wherever needed. Sometimes that protection and defense is called war.

Gail Gallo

(Editor's note: Gail Gallo is the wife of D-M 50 President Peter Gallo)

Turkey tips ensure tasty, toxin-free table

By Airman 1st Class Melanie DeBord
355th Medical Group

There is nothing more satisfying during the holidays than sitting down to a table full of delicious home-cooked foods. However, the festivities can turn into a nightmare if you or your guests become ill with a food-borne illness.

A lot goes into properly and safely preparing a turkey. First you have to decide what kind of turkey to buy: frozen or fresh, stuffed or unstuffed.

Here are some tips to consider when buying a turkey:

Frozen turkey: Ensure your turkey is frozen throughout; keep frozen until ready to cook. Turkeys can safely be frozen at 0°F or below for up to one year.

Pre-stuffed turkey: Keep frozen until ready to cook.

Fresh turkey: buy the turkey one to two days before you plan to serve it. Refrigerate immediately at 40°F or below after purchase.

Fresh turkey parts can be stored in your freezer at 0°F or below for up to six months. Ensure turkey parts are stored in freezer paper or heavy aluminum to prevent freezer burn and the development of any off-flavoring.

The second decision you have to make is what size turkey to buy. The general rule to remember is 1 pound per person. If the turkey is pre-stuffed, allow 1½ pounds per person. This will allow for not only generous servings, but second day dishes as well.

Safely thaw

There are two ways to thaw a frozen turkey, in the refrigerator or by running cold water. Never thaw a turkey at room temperature. At room temperature the bird will thaw on the outside, but remains frozen on the inside, thus placing it in the danger zone for bacterial growth.

Remember that bacteria that causes food-borne illnesses occur and reproduce rapidly when food is kept in the danger zone. That is the temperature between 40-140°F. Always remember to keep hot

foods hot and cold foods cold. Hot foods should be kept at or above 140 degrees. Cold foods should be kept at 40 degrees or less.

Refrigerator thawing

Place the turkey on a tray or in a pan to catch moisture that accumulates as it thaws. This ensures the juices don't drip on other items in your refrigerator, which could cause cross-contamination and make you sick. Give the bird at least one day for every five pounds of weight to thaw. For pieces of large turkey, such as half, quarter or half breast, give one to two days.

Cold-water thawing

Place the turkey in a plastic bag that can be easily sealed to reduce the spread of harmful bacteria. Check for holes before placing in the ice cold water. You will need to change the water about every 30 minutes to assure safe, yet effective thawing. The external temperature of the bird should not exceed 41°F.

Whole turkey

Eight to 12 pounds - four to six hours
12 to 16 pounds - six to nine hours
16 to 20 pounds - nine to 11 hours
20 to 24 pounds - 11 to 12 hours

After the turkey has been thawed, clean the bird and its parts thoroughly in cold water and drain well. To prevent the spread of bacteria wash your hands, utensils and sink after they have come in contact with the raw turkey. Always remember that the best way to prevent food contamination is with frequent hand washing. If you are going to stuff the turkey, do so immediately before cooking. Do not overstuff the cavity; this will keep the food from cooking thoroughly.

The perfect roast

Place the turkey on a rack breast side up in a shallow roasting pan, but do not add water. Cover the turkey with heavy-duty aluminum foil loosely to prevent over-browning and allow for maximum heat circulation. It also helps to

keep the turkey moist and reduces oven splatter. Cook the turkey at a temperature above 325°F. Cooking at low temperatures allows meat to remain too long in the danger zone, and won't allow for adequate killing of dangerous bacteria.

Insert a meat thermometer into the thigh without touching the bone of your bird. For turkey parts, always ensure that the thermometer is inserted into the thickest area. A turkey is done when the temperature reaches 180°F to 185°F in the inner thigh. Dark meat turkey pieces are done at 180°F to 185°F and white meat turkey pieces are done at 170°F.

Thorough cooking of a turkey can also be detected by inserting a fork into the thickest area of the inner thigh. Juices from the bird should run clear, not pink, and the legs should wiggle in their sockets. Allow the turkey to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Leftovers

After the feast, and within two hours after pulling the turkey out of the oven, cut all the meat off the turkey, place all leftovers in small, shallow containers and refrigerate or freeze. Handling cooked turkey incorrectly can result in food poisoning.

Leftover turkey will keep in the refrigerator for three to four days. Stuffing and gravy should be used within one or two days. Make sure to bring leftover gravy to a rolling boil before serving. For longer storage, package items in freezer paper or heavy-duty aluminum foil, date the packages, and freeze them. Frozen turkey, stuffing, and gravy should be used within one month. Reheat all leftovers to 165 °F or above.

Remember these food safety methods, and keep in mind the importance of frequent hand washing. Follow the motto of "keep hot foods hot, cold foods cold" and your holiday feasts will be merry and bright. For more information about food safety/sanitation or any other Public Health concern, call at 8-2714, or take a look at this web page: <https://mdg.dm.af.mil/PublicHealth/Home1.htm>

Ready to quit smoking? Call the HAWC

How many of you remembered Thursday was the Great American Smokeout? Congratulations to those of you who made an effort to stop for a day. Let's not forget those who have not tried or tried and failed. I realize that quitting smoking is difficult for a lot of people, yet the benefits of quitting are endless.

You probably don't realize how many conditions smoking can influence. Here are a few ex-

amples: Allergies, cataracts, heart disease, lung cancer, asthma, depression, heartburn, muscle cramps, angina, Graves disease, infertility, ulcers, back pain, gum disease and laryngitis.

Smoking can also effect the following: Bronchitis, osteoporosis, stroke risk, cervical cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, varicose veins, cholesterol levels, pneumonia and menopause.

So, which of these categories do you fit in?

Pre-contemplation

- Others are telling you to quit but you're not ready to think about quitting smoking; and

- You gather information and think about quitting smoking.

Contemplation

- You are willing to make changes in your smoking behavior, such as cutting back on cigarettes in certain situations;

You evaluate and realize what you are doing when you "light-up;"

You start to motivate yourself to quit; and

You are looking for new coping strategies.

Action

- You make lifestyle changes;
- You deal with short-term discomfort in exchange for long-

term benefit; and

You quit smoking within the past six months.

Maintenance

- You quit smoking but you are concerned with starting up again.

The above is to help you realize how close you are to committing to a healthier lifestyle for yourself and family through quitting smoking. Dedication and commitment to yourself is difficult, but the benefits of a smoke-free lifestyle are everlasting.

If you're ready to quit, call the Health and Wellness Center at 8-2294/1003. It may be the most important call of your life.



Senior Airman Amy McBeth

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Piuhl works on an air conditioning compressor module from the Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center.



Sonoran Spotlight

(Editor's note: Sonoran Spotlight is a weekly feature of the Desert Airman that profiles a member of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base team. Members are nominated by their commander or first sergeant, and the article is compiled by the Desert Airman staff.)

Comfort is a key watchword for Kevin Piuhl ... he's in charge of air conditioning for the Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center.

The 36-year-old technical sergeant is NCO in charge of the 42nd Airborne Command and Control Squadron's Air Conditioning shop, and is responsible for providing people and equipment to ensure the ABCCC operates at optimum temperature.

"I joined the Air Force [nearly 16 years ago] for job security and the travel opportunities," said the married father of two.

His job has given him a unique opportunity to work in the "aircraft world" as a civil engineering troop. "We normally work on buildings, but

in this job, we get to work on the airplanes, making the job even more fun."

Piuhl hails from Alliance, Neb., and over his 15-plus years in the Air Force, he calls Eaker AFB, Ark., his favorite assignment. "That part of Arkansas is a sportsman's paradise ... plenty of hunting, fishing, etc."

"Sergeant Piuhl's outstanding performance in support of the unique mission of the 42nd ACCS is the reason we selected him [for Sonoran Spotlight]," said Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Von Dwingelo, 42nd ACCS maintenance superintendent. "He consistently goes above and beyond his required responsibilities, ensuring the air conditioning systems on the ABCCC capsules are maintained, while also ensuring he complies with all building custodian duties."

Piuhl's hobbies and outside activities include watching his daughters compete in their sporting events. In addition he enjoys hiking in the mountains, and watching the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

His career goals are to make master sergeant, complete 20 years of service to the Air Force, and "start my new life as a civilian."

Piuhl's gets much of his inspiration from his father, who, "in all the misfortunes life has dealt our family, has kept a positive outlook."

Advertising

Pima Reservation Indian a Marine hero

Ira Hamilton Hayes immortalized in Iwo Jima Memorial

By Airman 1st Class Jana Klopfenstein
355th Mission Support Squadron

It's Feb. 23, 1945, four days after Navy guns fired upon the island of Iwo Jima marking the beginning of D-Day.

Six young men, weary from battle, valiantly raise the American flag atop the volcanic peak of Mt. Suribuchi.

Three of the six men die from hostile fire as "Old Glory" is raised upon the valuable strategic island of Iwo Jima.

The first ever invaders' flag flies over Japanese territory while a press photographer captures the image and creates the most recognized war photograph ever taken.

Marine Private 1st Class Ira Hamilton Hayes, a full-blooded Pima Indian from

Arizona's Pima reservation lived a normal reservation childhood.

Hayes's life dramatically changed after returning from World War II.

He had courageously fought in the war attached to the 5th Marine Division as a paratrooper and was recognized as a national hero for his heroic act with five other men.

The inspiring photograph of this event had an exalting effect upon our nation.

The photograph was a sensation, and just two days later U.S. Senators called for a national monument.

President Roosevelt ordered Hayes and the other two survivors, Rene Gagnon, and John Bradley, to Washington D.C.

From there they began to tour the country and encouraged Americans to buy bonds, launching the most successful bond tour in American history, the 7th bond tour.

During the next eight weeks Americans repeatedly saw the memorable picture.

The Flag Raisers increased the U.S treasury by more than \$220 million dollars.

Hayes felt that he received unwarranted adoration.

Never comfortable with his new-found fame he remarked about the bond tour, "It was supposed to be soft duty, but I couldn't take it. Everywhere we went people shoved drinks in our hands and said 'you're a hero!'"

"We knew we hadn't done that much, but you couldn't tell them that."

The tour ended and Hayes returned to Pima reservation.

Unable to return to a normal life, Hayes continued to gather fame as hundreds of letters were written to him, movies made, monuments built, stamps created, and he became the newest tourist attraction on the reservation.

Hayes, felt undeserving of the recognition and saddened that so many of his friends had died in the war.

Hayes was never able to regain balance in his life.

He died of exposure at 33, nearly 10 years to the day of the photograph being taken.

He rests in Arlington Cemetery, Va.

The Pima people and fellow Americans still think of Hayes as "a hero to everyone, but himself."

Advertising

Dedicated crew chiefs committed to plane, pilot

By Karen Halstead
Public affairs

You might say it's more than the Air Force that depends on the job of the dedicated crew chief. The pilot's life depends on how well the DCCs do their job. You might say the DCCs have the lives of the pilots they assist in the palm of their hand.

When airmen finish their initial six-month training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas they follow-on to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to finish their crew chief training and become Mission Ready Technicians.

The 357th Fighter Squadron sponsors the one-month course, which, according to Airman 1st Class, Lisa Love, 357th FS DCC, teaches the crew chief about the finer points of the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Successful completion of the course provides the crew chief with certification in launch and



Airman 1st Class Latonia Brown

Airman 1st Class Bryan Fields repairs a forward nose gear bushing. Fields is the DCC for the 355th Wing commander's A-10.



Airman 1st Class Latonia Brown

(Above) Airman 1st Class Lisa Love inspects a tire on "her" 357th Fighter Squadron A-10 Thunderbolt II.

recovery of the A-10.

When pilots and DCCs come to a unit, they are assigned an aircraft and remain assigned to the same aircraft until they leave the unit.

When a pilot flies and finds a problem with his "bird," he tells the DCC.

Now it's the DCCs responsibility to find out what the problem is and if the part is operational.

Capt. Reginald Short, 357th FS maintenance officer, said the DCCs have a set of guidelines, the Minimum Equipment Subsystems Listing, which prescribe parts that are musts to replace immediately and parts that won't jeopardize the integrity of the aircraft if not replaced.

Airman 1st Class Bryan Fields, DCC for the 355th Wing commander's A-10, said, "When it looks pretty and there aren't any leaks, you make yourself look good by having the plane fly good."

The DCC has a team of people at their disposal ready to assist with problems beyond their scope of expertise.

Once they assess the problem, if they need a specialist in electrical or sheet metal they work with the shop that can provide the support they need to get the A-10 back in the air and mission ready.

"Ultimately, the DCC on-site oversees the total needs of the aircraft, and makes sure the aircraft is ready, but can call on others to get it up to speed," Short said.

"The greatest challenge I have is trying to train new people on the things I already know. It only takes me a few minutes to accomplish a task which often takes the new trainee an hour to achieve," Fields said. "It (training) gets frustrating for me."

Fields' coworker, Airman 1st Class Cameron Cromer, said if there was any one thing he would like to see improved in the training process of the DCCs it would be to provide more training on the aircraft before they step out on the flight line.

Together, Love, Fields and Cromer say the

biggest change to the way their squadron does business happened when Short got to the squadron.

"Before the captain got here we were constantly having problems not having enough crew chiefs to go around. We just couldn't move everyone around enough to get to all the jobs," Fields said.

"We didn't have the same jets so we didn't have any continuity," Love added. "It meant when the next crew chief came on duty, we would never know the status of the jet we were assigned."

Short said he didn't do anything special, but his DCCs attribute the good working conditions to his management of them and the ability to have continuity with the same jet.

"We stay with our aircraft," Cromer said. "From inspections to painting, it is our responsibility."

After a recent aircraft mishap on base, D-M's aircraft had to be diverted to other airfields to land. This meant the crew chiefs had to get somewhere else to take care of their planes. Love went to Fort Huachuca and had an experience she says she won't soon forget.

"I've never seen so many security forces," Love said. "They wanted more identification than we normally have to give here." Eventually they gained access to their aircraft and were able to complete their mission, according to Love. "Getting to be a dedicated crew chief has been my biggest success. It's a challenge for me to accomplish some of the tasks, but I'm very mechanically inclined and really like my job."

Fields said he's most proud when the wing commander comes out to his jet and says it looks good.

Short has challenges too, "The biggest short-coming for this career field is training the young airmen to become NCOs. Usually by the time they become senior airmen they're off to Korea, so we're constantly training," he said. "It's a plus to have guys like Fields -- young and stays awhile -- or someone who returns to us from a short tour."

355th Fighter Group celebrates 58th anniversary this month

(Editor's note: This is the second article in a three-part series about the 355th Wing's history, commemorating the 58th anniversary.)

Following the 355th Fighter Group's inactivation in 1946, it was almost nine years before the unit re-activated Aug. 18, 1955, at McGhee-Tyson Airport, Tenn., under Aerospace Defense Command.

Increased tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States during the Cold War warranted the activation. The Russians now possessed an intercontinental bomber – the Tu-95 Bear with the ability to reach U.S. targets. Defending strategic targets became imperative.

The 355th FG's role was to defend the Oak Ridge Atomic Energy Plant and ALCOA aluminum production site with the North American F-86L Sabre, a radar equipped version of the aircraft made famous in the Korean War.

While pilots never fired a shot in anger, they pulled constant alert and made numerous practice launches against 'enemy' bombers and fighters during their almost three-year vigil.

The unit was again inactivated Jan. 9, 1958.

The wing's next phase of activity commenced April 13, 1962, when the group became the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing.

It didn't receive any people or aircraft until July 8, 1962, when the unit stood up at George Air Force Base, Calif.

Crews began operations with the Republic F-105 Thunderchief, and after reaching proficiency in the aircraft, began to train others.

Two years later the 355th TFW moved to McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., where wing members began supporting deploying squadron on combat rotations.

With an increase in the bombing campaign against North Vietnam, Air Force leaders decided to relocate the wing to Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. The unit arrived Nov. 8, 1965.

While pilots flew missions in both North and South Vietnam, it was the load carrying capability, range and speed of the F-105 which saw the majority of missions going north. Many of these missions went to Hanoi, against the infamous Paul Doumer Bridge, a magical symbol of the

North Vietnamese.

It was these capabilities that worked against the F-105 when it came to maneuvering. Despite this limitation, 355th TFW F-105 pilots were credited with downing 20-28 MiG aircraft.

Over time, the wing's mission gradually changed with the addition of the Douglas EB-66 and RB-66 Destroyer aircraft. Electronic warfare equipment was added to jam enemy radar signals, while selected F-105 crews conducted 'Wild Weasel' missions. Their task was to fire missiles and drop bombs in order to destroy missile radar and launch sites.

Members continued missions in Southeast Asia. March 31, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson ordered almost full cessation of strikes against North Vietnam, followed by a complete bombing halt Nov. 31, 1968.

This meant the majority of missions were not flown against rebels in the south, along with missions against enemy targets in other locations.

It was also during the period between March and November the 355th TFW maintained operational control of a General Dynamics F-111 detachment

sent to the region to test the aircraft's combat capabilities.

As time passed, senior leaders made a decision to reduce the number of F-105 wings in the Air Force.

The 355th TFW phased down the number of aircraft assigned in anticipation of inactivating the wing.

With all the F-105s gone and the remaining squadrons being reassigned, the wing inactivated again Dec. 10, 1970.

During their time in Southeast Asia, wing personnel earned four Presidential Unit Citations, three Air Force Outstanding Unit Citations with Combat "V" device, one Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, one Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and 13 campaign streamers.

Two members of the 355th TFW received the Medal of Honor for their efforts during the Vietnam Conflict: Capt. Meryl Dethlefsen and Maj. Leo Thorsness, for 'Wild Weasel' missions conducted March 10 and April 19, 1967. The 355th Wing headquarters building (2300) is named after Thorsness. *(Courtesy 355th Wing History Office)*

Advertising

Women's softball team loaded with talent

Luna's ladies play tough; let gloves, lumber do the talking on the field

By Angie Erickson
Public affairs

Al Luna used to be just one of the guys. Each year he would play for his 355th Operations Group intramural sports teams, work on cars and of course talk about sports and cars.

That was until he was injured in 1996 while playing on the men's varsity softball team. It was an injury that would not only impact his life, but the lives of others – the Davis-Monthan AFB women's softball team.

He started out just helping with the Lady Mustang team because his wife, Liz Luna, was a player. However, his competitive nature got the best of him, and before long he took over the head coach position. Now, after nearly five years, the women's softball team is loaded with talent.

He has coached them to numerous victories around the country as well as a 1997 World Championship in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico where they won \$5,000 and two major sponsorships from Nike and TPS. Also in 1997, they won the prestigious World Armed Forces Championship – an inter-service competition.

They continued their victories in 1998 and won third in the World Armed Forces Competition as well as winning local tournaments and league titles.

"We have great hitters," Luna said. "There is Trish Hudson, a military spouse, who is very consistent. She hit .800 this season.

"Then there is my wife, Liz, who hits the long ball. Next is Shasta Peterson who hits the ball harder than most guys, and our placement hitter Peni Dela Pena, small in stature, but has a big bat."



Airman 1st Class Latonia Brown

Trish Hudson, one of Al Luna's "big guns" on the women's softball team bears down on a pitch during a recent game. Hudson's batting average is more than .800 this year

However, he said it takes outstanding players overall. "We get help from all over the field. Our pitcher, Deb Callison uses smart strategy in her pitching game and she is a great on-the-field coach. Our consistent outfield keeps our team on top in any game."

When he talks about defense he has to boast about Dela Pena.

"She is an outstanding shortstop, and the best player I have ever coached. She is only 21 years-old and has a lot of good playing years ahead of her."

Dela Pena was selected to participate in the Air Force softball camp in Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

There she made the team as the starting shortstop and since the Air Force team won the Gold in the Military Tourney, she was selected to play on the All-Military Team.

"Peni can do it all, She makes plays on the field that amaze you, and hits the ball

anywhere and with a lot of "Pop."

Dela Pena was also recognized with teammates Luna and Hudson after the Mustangs took fourth in the Armed Forces Tournament in Sept. in Euless, Texas. The women were given the All-World award. "It was truly an honor since only a dozen players are awarded from of the 16 teams," Luna said.

Very proud of his team, Luna admits coaching is not easy. "We did not go to the 1999 World Armed Forces competition because we were not ready," he said. "The team was not prepared and did I not want to make the trip to Panama City, Fla., just to be embarrassed."

Luna drives the team to perform to the best of its ability.

"Al has been coaching a long time and he's good at it so his tactics are less-than-tactful at times when he's trying to get his point across," Callison said.

"But there are four of us who have played with him for the past five years and we know his bark is worse then his bite. He's a winner. And he just likes to see us win. His coaching has kept us at the level we've been at for the past couple of years and now when we walk out on the field to play, we're actually that dreaded team no one wants to play against. That's a nice distinction."

Nancy "Rizz" Silva, right center, agrees.

"Luna is a tough coach with a lot of experience of the game and his intense attitude, direction, and devotion to the team is really what makes this a unique team."

Silva, who is in the Army, says was welcomed with open arms. "We encourage new people to come out and join the team."

Tryouts will be held in January. Call Luna at 8-3405 for more information.

Scoreboard

Bowling

Intramural - American
(Week 11)

Team	W-L
42 ACCS #2	54-26
42 ACCS #1	50-30
41 ECS #2	46-34
MDG #2	46-34
41 ECS #1	42-38
CONS	42-38
MDG #1	36-44
OSS	30-50
43 ECS	24-56
High Scratch Game (Team): 41	
ECS #1, 1017	
High Scratch Series (Team): 41	
ECS #1, 2805	
High Scratch Game (Men):	
Donald Karstetter, 257	
High Scratch Series (Men): Donal	
Karstetter, 624	
High Scratch Game (Women):	
Diane Chinae, 212	
High Scratch Series (Women):	
Diane Chinae, 586	

Intramural - National
(Week 11)

Team	W-L
SVS	54-26
12 AF #1	53-27
AMMO	48-32
MSS	42-38
TRANS	40-40
SUPS	36-44
12 AF #3	36-44
25 OWS #1	34-46
COMM	34-46
CRS	32-48
358th Wrekin Krew	24-56
High Scratch Game (Team): SVS,	
1025	
High Scratch Series (Team): SVS,	
2991	
High Scratch Game (Men): Andy	
King, 268	
High Scratch Series (Men): Jason	
Bauer, 689	
High Scratch Game (Women):	
Paulita Trezevant, 170	
High Scratch Series (Women):	
Paulita Trezevant, 476	

Tuesday Early Risers
(Week 11)

Team	W-L
Hit and Miss	58-30
Ally Kats	48-40
Wee Bee Bad	45-43
Hot Cats	44-44
Dream Catchers	43-45
OUI 3	42-46
The Monarchs	42-46
Soon's Runway	30-58
High Scratch Game (Team): Hit	
and Miss, 527	
High Scratch Series (Team): Ally	
Kats, 1401	
High Scratch Game: Hanna	
Jarvis, 204	

High Scratch Series: Diana Scott,

526

Phantom Mixed
(Week 8)

Team	W-L
The Cajuns	47-17
So So's	44-20
Strike Force	40-24
Lucky Seven	35-29
Alley Oops	34-30
Sweet Revenge	32-32
Strikebusters	30-34
The Dizzy Four	27-37
Six Pack	27-37
Rat Pack	26-38
Avengers	20-44

OWC

(Week 9)

Team	W-L
Lady Flyers	64-8
Coyotes	44-28
Alley Cats	36-36
The Eastsiders	36-36
Snuffers	36-36
KIDDS	36-36
Splitsters	30-42
High Scratch Game: Mary Jo	
Davee, 181	
High Scratch Series: Donita	
Oliver, 512	

D-M Pinrollers

(Week 10)

Team	W-L
Uh Huh Girls	50-30
Team 5	46-34
Dreamers	45-35
The Dream Catchers	44-36
L-A-D-Y	40-40
Annie's Girls	37-43
Team 6	35-37
Kachina Dolls	29-43
High Scratch Game (Team):	
Dreamers, 675	
High Scratch Series (Team): Uh	
Huh Girls, 1915	
High Scratch Game: Gloria	
McKinney, 206	
High Scratch Series: Gloria	
McKinney, 562	

CE Mixed

(Week 8)

Team	W-L
Just-4-Fun	46-18
BJ's Bunns	40-24
Good, Bad & Ugly	40-24
MILFs	38-26
The Cans	38-26
Fire Dawgs	34-30
Brew Crew	30-34
Old Timers	20-44
HVAC	18-14
Now N Then	16-48
High Scratch Game (Men): Bryan	
Chambliss, 206	
High Scratch Series (Men): Dave	
Kozma, 568	

High Scratch Game: Nicole

Westbrook, 163

High Scratch Series: Nicole

Westbrook, 475

Thursday Night

(Week 10)

Team	W-L
Mission Impossible	56-24
Pick One	50-30
The Prickly Pears	50-30
Desert Strikers	48-32
Lickity Splits	46-34
PBJs	46-34
Four Seas	42-38
Road Runners	36-44
Pintendos	34-46
BMs	34-46
Ice Breakers	34-46
Nice N Spicy	32-48
Cool Cs	32-48
Bucks N Does	20-60
High Scratch Game (Team): BMs,	
741	
High Scratch Series (Team): Pick	
One, 2091	
High Scratch Game (Men): Lloyd	
Lee, 275	
High Scratch Series (Men): Lloyd	
Lee, 659	
High Scratch Game (Women):	
Judy Ashworth, 210	
High Scratch Series (Women):	
Joyce Vaughn, 522	

Friday Nite Fun

(Week 10)

Team	W-L
Wannabees	50-22
3 Roses & A Thorn	42-30
Double Trouble	41-31
Kum Cantasi	41-31
The Misfits	38-34
AAFES	38-34
O Spare Us	36-36
Just Us	36-36
More BS	35-37
Just Havin Fun	30-34
Gutter Dusters	27-45
High Scratch Game (Team): More	
BS, 792	
High Scratch Series (Team): More	
BS, 2076	
High Scratch Game (Men): Gary	
Parker, 222	
High Scratch Series (Men): Gary	
Parker, 636	
High Scratch Game (Women): Liz	
Parker, 223	
High Scratch Series (Women):	
Kari Snyder, 517	

Bantams

(Week 8)

Team	W-L
N Sync	47-17
Dragons	43-21
Tigers	38-26
High Handicap Game (Team): N	
Sync, 766	
High Scratch Series (Team):	
Dragons, 628	
High Handicap Game (Boys):	

John Simon, 195

High Scratch Series (Boys):

Jonathon Willis, 242

High Scratch Game (Girls):

Sabrina Wayman, 79

High Scratch Series (Girls):

Alicia Jones, 206

Preps/Juniors/Majors

(Week 8)

Team	W-L
Fox Hound	48-16
The Xtremes	46-18
Desert Pros	40-24
Jaguars	38-26
Strikers	34-30
Alley Cats	30-34
Unlimited	28-36
Undertakers	28-36
Desert Strikers	26-38
N Sync Fireballs	24-40
The Bulldogs	24-40
High Scratch Game (Team):	
Desert Pros, 446	
High Scratch Series (Team): The	
Xtremes, 1271	
High Scratch Game (Boys):	
Steve Harmon, 114 (Preps);	
Nathan Thorne, 156 (Juniors);	
Jason Wakefield, 164 (Majors)	
High Scratch Series (Boys): Dale	
Phelps, 340 (Preps); Brandon	
Welsh, 421 (Juniors); Mike	
CuvIELlo, 463 (Majors)	
High Scratch Game (Girls):	
Rosashell Wayman, 80 (Preps);	
Amber Welsh, 140 (Juniors);	
Lynn Campbell, 109 (Majors)	
High Scratch Series (Girls):	
Rachel Ross, 322 (Preps); Ebony	
Wayman, 365 (Juniors); Jennifer	
Kerr, 342 (Majors)	

Flag Football

Monday/Wednesday

(Current as of Wednesday)

Team	W-L
CRS	2-0
43 ECS	2-0
SFS	2-0
MDG	2-0
COMM	1-1
41 ECS	1-1
162 ANG	0-2
358 FS	0-2
TRANS	0-2
OSS	0-2

Tuesday/Thursday

(Current as of Tuesday)

Team	W-L
357 FS	2-0
EMS	1-0
43 OPS	1-0
SUPS	1-1
354 FS	1-1
12 AF	1-1
25 OWS	1-1
CES	0-2
42 ACCS	0-2

Sports Shorts

Turkey shoot

The D-M Lanes annual turkey shoot has begun, and league bowlers can enter for 25-cents anytime their league meets. Turkeys will be awarded each week to the male and female bowlers with the most pins over their average for the week (through Tuesday). Call D-M Lanes at 8-3461 for more information.

Military marathon discounts

Officials at the Tucson Marathon, Half Marathon and Marathon Relay are offering military discounts to interested participants. The event is Dec. 3 at 7:30 a.m. and starts in the town of Oracle. The finish line is at the Sheraton El Conquistador in Oro Valley. Military discounts apply to both individuals and teams, and there is also a discount offered for military for the pasta dinner the evening before the race. More information is available at www.tucsonmarathon.com, or call the hotline at 320-0667. A marathon expo will be held Dec. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the El Conquistador.

Football Frenzy

Football Frenzy is every Monday at the Desert Oasis Club. Fans are invited to the club every Monday for NFL football, snacks, pizza, wings and beverage specials. Valuable local prizes will be given away every week. Members and their guests can win mini footballs, sports bags and pullovers and a \$150 MasterCard gift card. National prize winners go to the San Francisco-San Diego game, Dec. 3, the Tampa Super Bowl, Jan. 28, and the Honolulu Pro Bowl, Feb. 4. Trips include airfare and hotel accommodations for two, and a rental car. Only club members (either club) are eligible for national prizes. Sponsors are SatoTravel, Miller Brewing Co., American Airlines, Comfort Inn (San Diego), Double Tree Alana Waikiki (Pro Bowl), and Air Force Clubs (no federal endorsement intended). Call the Desert Oasis at 748-8666.

Skeet and trap open weekends

D-M's modern skeet and trap ranges open at 8 a.m., Saturdays and Sundays. Military shooters pay \$3 a round; civilians pay \$3.50. Per-round savings are available for purchasers of annual range fees. Ranges are at the east end of Yuma Road, adjacent to the small arms range. Call outdoor recreation at 8-3736.

Advertising



Chapel events

Protestant schedule

Today: Aim High Bible Study, 7 p.m., Chapel 1 annex. Call 889-1715 for more information.

Saturday: Couples' Bible Study, 7 p.m., call 749-5550 for more information.

Sunday: Contemporary Worship Service, 8:30 a.m., Chapel 1; Sunday School, 10 a.m., Chapels 1 and 2; Traditional Worship Service, 11:15 a.m., Chapel 2 annex; Inspirational Gospel Worship Service, 11:15 a.m., Chapel 1.

Tuesday: Ladies Bible Studies: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., (nursery provided), Chapel 1, or 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., Chapel 1; Singles Bible Study, 7:30 p.m., Building 3220; Bible Study for Moms, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Chapel 1.

Wednesday: Mid-week Bible Study, noon, Chapel 1; Promise Keepers Bible Study, 11:30 a.m., 355th Equipment Maintenance Squadron conference room in Building 4810; Prayer and Teaching Time, 7 p.m., Chapel 1; Youth Night, for middle and high school groups, Chapel 1, 7 p.m. Call 8-5411 for more information.

Catholic schedule

Saturday: Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel 1; Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Joseph's Church, 4 to 5 p.m.

Sunday: Mass, 7:30 and 10 a.m., Chapel 1; Sacrament of Reconciliation, 9:15 to 9:45 a.m., Chapel 1.

Monday through Friday: Rosary, 11:10 a.m., Chapel 2; Mass or communion service, 11:30 a.m., Chapel 1.

Wednesday: Rite for Christian Initiation

7 to 8:30 p.m., Chapel 1. For more information, go to www.dm.af.mil/chapel.

Islamic schedule

Today: Prayer service, noon to 2 p.m., Building 3220, third floor-west; educational classes, 6 to 8 p.m., Building 3220, third-floor west.

Thanksgiving Eve service

The Annual Thanksgiving Eve service will be presented by the base chapel at 7 p.m. This is an ecumenical service, with several of our chaplains taking part. Refreshments will follow. Please bring two loaves of homemade bread for refreshment time and for distribution to the dormitory residents. Call 8-5411 for more information.

Sponsored prayer seminar

Reverend Paul Gross, a nationally-known authority on the subject of prayer, will be presenting a seminar Sunday through Tuesday. Using a very conversational style of prayer, Gross will help those who attend with practical, down to earth advice. He will speak at the 8:30 a.m. contemporary service and the 11:15 a.m. traditional service. Lunch will be provided by the chapel at 1 p.m., with the seminar starting at 2 p.m. Monday and Tuesday night's session begin at 6 p.m. All are welcomed.



On-base clubs

Officers' Club

Today: Barber open, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: Surf & Turf or prime rib specials, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Sunday: Sunday Brunch, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; adults, \$13.95

Monday: Call now for Thanksgiving reservations.

Tuesday: Social hour, 5 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Two-for-one Steak Night, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Thursday: Closed today, Friday and Saturday.

Desert Oasis Enlisted Club

Today: Catfish lunch buffet, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday: DJ music tonight in the Shock Wave.

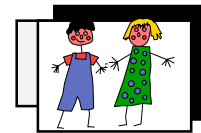
Sunday: Club closed, Cabana open.

Monday: Football Frenzy is tonight.

Tuesday: Bingo is at 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Cabana delivers, call 747-3234.

Thursday: Club closed today and Friday. Nighter, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.



Youth programs

Today: Call CDC at 8-3336 about hourly child care. Youth center carnival, 4 to 8 p.m.

Saturday: Teen weight clinic at 2 p.m., call 8-8373.

Monday: Gymnastics classes at the youth center, call 8-8844.

Tuesday: CDC Thanksgiving meal, call 8-3336 to reserve. Preteen computer game tourney, 6 p.m., call 8-8844.

Wednesday: Primary dance/pizza at youth

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Advertising

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center, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Teen Night open forum, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at youth center.

Thursday: All youth programs closed.

Carnival today

Come to the youth center's annual Fall Carnival, today, 4 to 8 p.m. There's something for the entire family – jumping castles, Willie's Log Ride, carnival games and more. Admission is free (small charge for some activities). The event, originally scheduled for Oct. 27, was cancelled due to weather. Find out more at the youth center, 8-8844.



Community events

Today: Skills center open house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday: Fort Bowie hike with outdoor recreation, call 8-3736.

Sunday: Skeet and trap ranges open weekends at 8 a.m.

Monday: Call ITT at 8-3700 about Karchner Cavern tours.

Tuesday: Seniors bowl at 1 p.m., at the D-M Lanes.

Wednesday: Ship UPS from the skills center, call 8-4385.

Thursday: Nearly all Services activities closed. Golf course, restaurant open normal hours. Fitness center hours today are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Skills Center's open house

Everyone is invited to the Skills Center's Open House, today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An extensive expansion and remodeling project at the center is now complete. Stop by and see the new graphics shop, consignment and resale areas and other additions. Refreshments will be served. The Skills Center is in Building 4531, next to Bama Park. For further details, call 8-4385.

CDC holiday meal

Parents, youngsters and staff at the child development center get together Tuesday for the CDC's 8th Annual Thanksgiving meal. Reservations are requested; parents should sign up as soon as possible in their children's classroom, or phone the CDC at 8-3336.

Ship UPS at D-M

Bring packages to the Skills Center for United Parcel Service shipping. The UPS Mailbox is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays, 12 to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 12 to 4 p.m. Items

brought in by 3 p.m., weekdays, go out the same day. UPS requires that parcels be in corrugated cardboard containers, with no paper or string. Boxes and packaging materials can be purchased separately. The Skills Center is in Building 4531, next to Bama Park. Call 8-4385 for information.



Family support

Saturday: Give Parents A Break, 2 to 6 p.m., child development center and youth center.

Monday: Financial Briefing, 8 to 11 a.m., community center, Building 4201.

Tuesday: Interview Workshop, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., community center, Building 4201, Time for Tots, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Chapel 1.

Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving Day

Right Start orientation

Right Start is a base program, which is designed to welcome all newcomers, military, DoD civilian, and their spouses. Attendees will learn about what D-M and the city of Tucson have to offer. Sign up to attend by calling the INTRO Office at 8-3076/4478. Right Start will be conducted on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, at the community center, Building 4201, from 8 a.m. to noon. The Medical Right Start program begins from 1 to 4 p.m. For additional information, please contact the family support center at 8-5690.

Holiday auction

The Boys and Girls Club Holiday Auction will be held Nov. 25 at Westin La Paloma. Volunteers are needed to oversee the silent auction. Volunteers are needed as spotters, to provide table security, presenters, and closers. There will be varying shifts between the hours of 5 p.m. to midnight. Free tee-shirts will be given to all volunteers. This auction raises money for the Boys and Girls Club in Tucson. For more information and to sign up, please contact Staff Sgt. Dawn Cooper at 8-3558.

VA benefit briefing

Individuals who are 180 days from separating or retiring should attend one of the monthly transition assistance program seminars and receive the veterans affairs briefing on loans, education, and disability benefits. The family support center conducts an extra Veterans Affairs benefit briefing each month for members who are unable to attend the primary one. The next briefing is Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon, community center, Building 4201. Call 8-5690 for reservations.

Time for Tots

Time for tots is a weekly playgroup open to parents and children ages 4 and younger. The group meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Chapel 1. Call 8-5690 for more information.

Smooth move seminar

The family support center will conduct its next smooth move briefing on Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the community center, Building 4201. This briefing will cover many topics related to making a permanent change of station move. This briefing is open to military members, Department of Defense employees, and their spouses. Reservations are required. Call 8-5690 for reservations.

Give Parents a Break

The next Give Parents a Break program is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday. This program offers free childcare to active duty Air Force parents who need a break from the stresses of parenting for a few hours. Families who are eligible for this program include those where a parent is feeling stress due to military member being deployed, recently moving to base or unique circumstances or hardships. For more information or a referral, call 8-5690.

Interviewing workshop

Attend the interviewing workshop Tuesday from 8 to 11 a.m. at the community center, Building 4201. The workshop will provide valuable information on preparing for an interview. For more information or reservations, call 8-5690.

Resume workshop

Attend the resume workshop Dec. 5 from 8 to 10 a.m. to help prepare that eye-catching resume. For reservations call 8-5690.

Child Care for PCS

The Air Force Aid Society's "Child Care for PCS" program is now available at Davis-Monthan AFB. Co-sponsored by the Family Support Center and the family child care program, families with permanent change of station orders are eligible to receive a "Child Care for PCS Certificate" from the family support center for use within 30 days of the family's departure from or arrival at the base. Child care is done in licensed family child care homes. This program is targeted at E-5's and below. Make an appointment to sign up by calling 8-5690. For information, contact Tom McCord or Rico Triana at 8-4024/6040.

Advertising



Education services

Commissioning program

Want to become a commissioned officer?
For more information about the LEAD Program, call 8-4248/5191.



Other agencies

Services facilities holiday hours

Most 355th Services Squadron activities are closed Thursday. Remaining open Thursday are the Officers' club for Thanksgiving buffet only; the fitness center and racquetball annex, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and the golf course, sunrise to noon (open shotgun play begins at 7 a.m.) The course's Eagle's Nest Restaurant will be open, 5 a.m. to noon. Both clubs will be closed Nov. 24, and the Officers' Club will be closed Nov. 25, as well.

AAFES and commissary hours

The following facilities' hours for Thanksgiving Day are:

Commissary: Closed.

Shoppette: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other AAFES facilities: Closed.

For more information, call the commissary at 8-3116. AAFES' facilities' phone numbers are in D-M's new telephone directory, which can be picked up at the family support center.

Santas in Blue needs donations

Santas in Blue needs donations of toys and bicycles by Dec. 5 to support its gift-giving program for underprivileged Native-American children at local missions. People interested in sponsoring a child should contact their unit Santas in Blue representative for a child's

name or Staff Sgt. Lori Payton at 8-4305 or Capt. Christopher Parker at 8-9684. The program also needs volunteers to help Santa deliver the gifts to the missions and donations of prepackaged cookies and presweetened Kool-aid for the Santas in Blue parties held at the missions.

ESA meeting

The next Enlisted Spouses Association meeting will be 6:15 p.m., Tuesday at the Desert Oasis Enlisted Club, Monte's Room. This meeting will be followed by the annual Holiday Gift and Dessert Exchange. The wrapped gift should not exceed \$10. For more information, contact Dena Wakefield, 747-3461.

Car wash fundraiser

The 12th Air Force Logistics Group is sponsoring a car wash fund-raiser Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bank of America on base. Funds raised will benefit the 12 AF/LG holiday celebration. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Mark McKee at 8-4480.

Health benefits

The Federal Employees Health Benefits health fair is being held now through Dec. 11. The effective date for changes will be Jan. 14, 2001. The fair is scheduled for Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Building 3200 in Room 267, for baseside employees and Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Building 7507 in the START conference room, for AMARC employees. To make changes to health plans, eligible employees should call 1-800-997-2378 or go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/palacecompass. The 2001 FEHB Guide is now available at www.opm.gov/insure/health/index.htm.

Attention 12th AF spouses

Lt. Gen. Tom Hobbins, 12th Air Force Commander, will act as host for this first Spouses Commander's Call, Monday at 6 p.m. in Building 12 in the battlestaff conference room,

Room 131. Officials have planned this program especially for 12th Air Force spouses and will offer refreshments and have professional caregivers on hand to provide free child care. Gen Hobbins will discuss and take questions about the 12th Air Force mission, operations tempo and more. Any spouses interested in attending - and especially those who will need child care - should call Staff Sgt. Hope Norton at 8-1760.

Vehicle registration/base decals

Effective immediately, all Davis-Monthan Air Force Base members who have a 2000 expiration decal on their vehicle can renew their decals to 2003. Vehicles can be re-registered at pass and registration in Building 3200, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the visitor center near the Craycroft Road gate Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bring your ID card, drivers license, registration, proof of insurance and current decal number when registering vehicles. Call pass and registration at 8-3224 if you have any questions.

Thrift Shop closed for holiday

The Thrift Shop will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday due to Thanksgiving. The shop will reopen Nov. 28 at 9 a.m. and will be open until 2 p.m. Call 8-2120 to reserve space for large items and furniture. The Thrift Shop is located in Building 3220 on Ironwood across the street from the bowling alley.



Movie theater

Today: Urban Legend: Final Cut, (R), 7 p.m.

Saturday: Perfect Storm, (PG-13), 7 p.m.

Sunday: Nurse Betty, (R), 7 p.m.

Nov. 24: Remember the Titans, (PG), 7 p.m.

Nov. 25: Remember the Titans, (PG), 7 p.m.

Nov. 26: Get Carter, (R), 7 p.m.

Advertising